

effective fund-raiser, Grace also co-chaired the Colonial Ball and the Friends of the Hermitage Cookbook, first printed in 1976. In addition to her work at the Hermitage, Grace has been an active member of the Ho-Ho-Kus Public School System for over twenty-six years.

Frank Barr has been both a Trustee of the Valley Health System and Chairman of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Valley Hospital has become a Hermitage Pioneer Corporation through its evolution into a major healthcare system. As a former Ho-Ho-Kus School Board President and trustee on various boards in the local community, Frank has played an integral role in the community. He has served as President of Fishers Island Development Corporation and was a Trustee of St. Lawrence University. He has also founded a non-profit affordable housing corporation in addition to his many other career achievements. These are truly phenomenal people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Grace and Frank Barr for all they have done for their community and for the outstanding example they set for all of us.

HONORING GILSON D. FOSTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gilson D. Foster as he concludes his lengthy and meritorious tenure as Business Manager and Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 557 and as President of the Saginaw County Labor Council. Gil has truly earned his reputation as an outstanding leader who has played a key role in shaping the future of the greater Saginaw community.

A native of Alma, Michigan, Gil has positively affected the lives of nearly everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting him, and those of countless people who will never know how much better their lives are thanks to his hard work. Throughout his life, he has exhibited exemplary citizenship by consistently and eagerly going well above and beyond the call of duty. He has truly made a difference in the lives of working families.

Devotion to duty, longevity in service and job excellence are hallmarks of Gil's work ethic. After graduating in 1952 from the former Arthur Hill Trade School, Gil enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving honorably until his discharge in 1960. He later graduated from the Saginaw Joint Electrical Apprenticeship program and embarked on his career in the electrical trade. In 1966, Gil took over as Local 557 Business Manager and Financial Secretary and served in those roles for 35 years. Similarly, he spent 20 years as President of the Saginaw County Labor Council and also served on the Michigan state AFL-CIO General Board.

Gil's contributions, however, extend far beyond the workplace. Over the years, Gil has freely and exuberantly given his time and resources to many community organizations, including the Salvation Army, the United Way of Saginaw County, the Lake Huron Area Council Boy Scouts of America Executive Board, the

Saginaw Community Foundation, the Delta College Quality of Life Advisory Council, the Saginaw Economic Development Corporation, the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and the Great American Music Festival Board of Trustees.

Of course, such community service is never accomplished without the love and support of family. Gil's wife, Patricia, and five children, Kathy, Nancee, Keith, Randall, and Anne, have been an integral and key part of his success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gil Foster on his first-rate and admirable community involvement and for his efforts in making Saginaw an enviable place to call home. I am confident that he will continue to provide many more years of dedicated service to his fellow citizens.

CONDEMNING TALIBAN REGIME OF AFGHANISTAN REQUIRING HINDUS TO WEAR SYMBOLS IDENTIFYING THEM AS HINDU

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this Resolution which condemns the treatment of Hindus by the Taliban government.

The Taliban government has once again crossed the line, this time by forcing Hindus to wear identifying markers on their clothing. This latest oppressive act is eerily reminiscent of Nazi-era Germany when Jews were forced to wear the yellow Star of David in order to identify themselves. Singling out one group serves only one purpose: fostering discrimination and potential persecution. The world stood silently by when the Nazis started targeting Jews. We will not be silent this time. We must remember the cautious maxim that reminds us that those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.

The Taliban are slowly attacking all groups who they perceive as different. Since 1996, the Taliban, an extremist militia, has seized control of 90% of Afghanistan and then unilaterally declared an end to women's basic human rights.

Women are banished from working. Girls are not allowed to attend school beyond the eighth grade. Women are being beaten for not fully covering themselves, including their eyes and ankles.

Women and girls are not allowed to go out into public without being covered from head to toe with a heavy and cumbersome garment and escorted by a close male relative.

Women are not allowed to seek health care, even in emergency situations, from male doctors.

The Taliban has allowed some women to practice medicine, but women must do so fully covered and in sectioned off, special wards. And even these services are only available in very few select locations, leaving women to die from otherwise treatable diseases.

A sixteen-year-old girl was stoned to death because she went out in public with a man who was not her family member.

A woman who was teaching girls in her home, was also stoned to death in front of her

husband, her children and her students. An elderly woman was beaten, breaking her leg, because she exposed her ankle in public.

These atrocities are real.

They are happening now, and will continue tomorrow as long as the extremist Taliban government is still in control of Afghanistan.

The restrictions on women's freedom in Afghanistan are unfathomable to most Americans.

Women and girls cannot venture outside without a burqa—an expensive and restrictive garment that covers their entire bodies including a mesh panel covering their eyes.

For some women, not having the means to afford and purchase this expensive garment will banish them to their homes for the rest of their lives.

The effects of this decree have been severe.

Many Afghan women are widows and have no means to income because they cannot work, and unless they have a close male family member, they have no access to society for food for their families and themselves.

We must continue to speak out against the Taliban, on behalf of the women and girls that risk death for speaking out for themselves.

We must not accept the Taliban as a legitimate government.

We must send a strong and clear message that gender apartheid and religious discrimination is unacceptable and a gross violation of the most basic human rights.

Afghanistan may be physically located on the other side of the world, but the voices of the women and girls suffering there are heard loud and clear here.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT FOR CREDIT ON TAXES

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would invite you to join me as a co-sponsor of the Renewable Energy Act for Credit on Taxes.

This is a refundable tax credit to be given for investments in renewable energy systems based on solar, wind, or fuel cells providing up to \$4.50 per Watt of electricity produced, capped at the lesser of 35 percent of the cost of the system or \$6,000 for residences and \$50,000 for commercial enterprises. It would sunset in four years.

A recent ABC poll showed that 90 percent of the public support increased investment in renewable energy sources. In its National Energy Policy, the administration has also identified this need.

Based on the California experience, we need to supply more energy at peak periods as soon as possible. Because of transmission gridlock both between states in the western region and within California, right now we need to increase supplies where they will be used. Public policy calls for increasing reliance on renewable energy sources.

Therefore, we need to give incentives to power sources that can be put into operation relatively quickly, produce power at peak times where it will be used, and be powered by renewable energy sources.